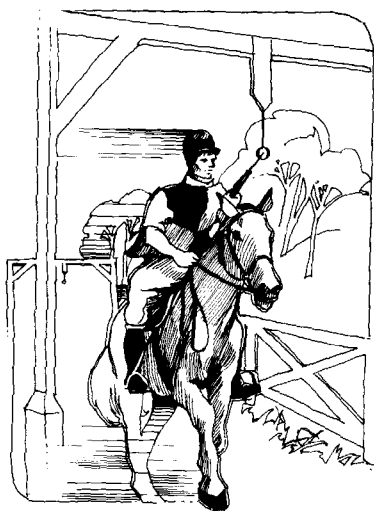
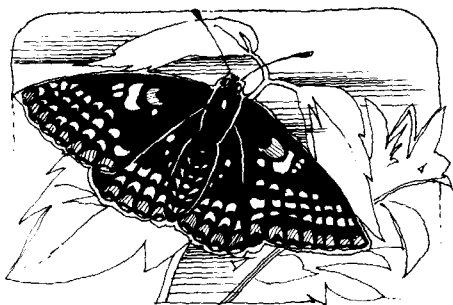


POET LAUREATE OF MARYLAND —

By Chapter 178, Acts of 1959, the Governor was authorized to appoint a citizen of Maryland as Poet Laureate of Maryland. Under the provisions of this Chapter, the Governor appointed Vincent Godfrey Burns (Code 1957, 1971 Repl. Vol., 1976 Supp., Art. 41, sec. 77A).

MARYLAND SPORT — By Chapter 134, Acts of 1962, the age old equestrian sport of Jousting was proclaimed as the official sport of the State of Maryland (Code 1957, 1971 Repl. Vol., Art. 41, sec. 79A).



STATE INSECT—The Baltimore Checkerspot Butterfly (*Euphydryas phaeton*) was declared to be the official arthropodic emblem of the State of Maryland by the General Assembly by Chapter 253, Acts of 1973 (Code 1957, 1971 Repl. Vol., 1975 Supp., Art. 41, sec. 77C).

MARYLAND'S NICKNAMES—Although Maryland's nicknames are not official State Symbols, the State is known both as the "Old Line State" and the "Free State."

During the Revolutionary War, Maryland received its nickname of the "Old Line State." According to some historians, it was presumably given by Gen. George Washington because of the magnificent performance of the State's regular troops of the line in several of the more important engagements. In this connection, military writers have stated that the troops of the Maryland Line ranked among the finest in the Continental Army and were "held in admirable discipline" as distinguished from the militia, which fought in guerilla fashion. (See: WPA Writers' Project, *Maryland: A Guide to the Old Line State* (New York, 1940), p. 37.)

The nickname of "Free State" is of twen-

tieth century origin. It was invented by Hamilton Owens, editor of the *Baltimore Sun*. Sometime in 1923, at the height of the debate over Prohibition, Congressman William D. Upshaw of Georgia, a fierce dry, denounced Maryland as a traitor to the Union because it had refused to pass a State enforcement act. Mr. Owens thereupon wrote a mock-serious editorial entitled "The Maryland Free State," arguing that Maryland should really secede from the Union and go it alone. The irony in this editorial was somewhat finely spun, and on second thought Mr. Owens decided not to print it, but the idea stuck in his mind, and in a little while he began to use it in other editorials. The nickname caught on quickly, and the term "Free State" is heard almost as frequently as "Old Line State." See Frank R. Kent and others, *The Sunpapers of Baltimore* (New York, 1937), p. 309.